

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A rain gutter ~~The rain gutter~~ and leaf guard apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

a trough portion having a front face, a rear wall and a bottom floor interconnecting said front face and said rear wall, said front face terminating at an upper lip;

a leaf guard portion formed integrally with said trough portion and extending from said rear wall to said upper lip, said leaf guard portion terminating in an attachment lip that can be positioned proximate to said upper lip of said trough portion;

a connecting member interengaging said attachment lip and said upper lip to connect said leaf guard portion to said trough portion; and

a mounting flange formed by an extension of said rear wall above said upper lip and a leg member of said leaf guard portion that is oriented parallel to said rear wall, said leg member being folded over from said rear wall extension by a 180 degree bend.

3. (Original Claim) The rain gutter and leaf guard apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said upper lip is formed with a horizontal flange extending inwardly toward said rear wall from said front face, said attachment lip mating with said horizontal flange to permit said connecting member to interengage said attachment lip and said horizontal flange.

4. (Original Claim) The rain gutter and leaf guard apparatus of Claim 3 wherein said mounting flange is formed with holes therein extending through both said leg member and said rear wall extension for the passage of a fastener through said mounting flange into a support structure to which said rain gutter and leaf guard apparatus is to be mounted.

5. (Original Claim) The rain gutter and leaf guard apparatus of Claim 3 wherein said leaf guard further includes a body member oriented generally perpendicularly to said leg member, said body member terminating at said attachment lip.

6. (Original Claim) The rain gutter and leaf guard apparatus of Claim 5 wherein said body member is formed with drain holes therein for the passage of water through said leaf guard portion into said trough portion.

7. (Original Claim) The rain gutter and leaf guard apparatus of Claim 6 wherein said front face is formed in a scalloped shape including a curved surface extending between spaced apart 90 degree bends.

8. (Original Claim) In a rain gutter having a trough including a front face terminating at an upper lip, a rear wall opposing said front face, and a bottom floor member extending between said rear wall and said front face, said trough having a generally open top to collect water therein, the improvement comprising:

a leaf guard formed integrally with said trough and extending from said rear wall to said upper lip to close said open top of said trough, said leaf guard having a leg member integrally formed with said rear wall and a body portion that extends generally perpendicularly to said leg member to terminate at an attachment lip which is connected to said upper lip by detachable connecting members.

9. (Original Claim) The rain gutter of Claim 8 wherein said rear wall includes an extension that projects vertically above said upper lip, said rear wall extension and said leg member forming a mounting flange for engagement with a fastener that connects said mounting flange to a support structure on which said rain gutter is to be mounted.

10. (Original Claim) The rain gutter of Claim 9 wherein said mounting flange is formed with holes therein extending through both said leg member and said rear wall extension for the passage of said fastener through said mounting flange into said support structure.

11. (Original Claim) The rain gutter of Claim 9 wherein said body member is formed with drain holes therein for the passage of water through said leaf guard portion into said trough portion.

12. (Original Claim) The rain gutter of Claim 9 wherein said front face is formed in a scalloped shape including a curved surface extending between spaced apart 90 degree bends.

13. (Original Claim) A rain gutter apparatus comprising:

a trough portion having a front face, a rear wall and a bottom floor interconnecting said front face and said rear wall, said front face terminating at an upper lip;

a leaf guard portion extending from said rear wall to said upper lip, said leaf guard portion including a leg member that is integrally formed with said rear wall and a body member that is integrally formed with said leg member and extends generally perpendicularly thereto, said body member terminating in an attachment lip that can be positioned proximate to said upper lip of said trough portion;

a mounting flange formed by an extension of said rear wall vertically above said upper lip and said leg member of said leaf guard portion, said leg member being folded through a 180 degree bend to orient said leg member parallel to said rear wall extension; and

a connecting member interengaging said attachment lip and said upper lip for detachably connecting said leaf guard portion to said trough portion.

14. (Original Claim) The rain gutter apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said upper lip is formed with a horizontal flange extending inwardly toward said rear wall from said front face, said attachment lip being formed with a recess to mate with said horizontal flange and permit said connecting member to interengage said attachment lip and said horizontal flange.

15. (Original Claim) The rain gutter apparatus of Claim 14 wherein said recess positions said attachment lip above said body member.

16. (Original Claim) The rain gutter apparatus of Claim 14 wherein said mounting flange is formed with holes therein extending through both said leg member and said rear wall extension for the passage of a fastener through said mounting flange into a support structure to which said rain gutter and lead guard apparatus is to be mounted.

17. (Original Claim) The rain gutter apparatus of Claim 16 wherein said body member is formed with drain holes therein for the passage of water through said leaf guard portion into said trough portion.

18. (Original Claim) The rain gutter apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said front face is formed in a scalloped shape including a curved surface extending between spaced apart 90 degree bends.